

BEFORE THE
Federal Communications Commission
 WASHINGTON, DC 20554

In the Matter of)
)
 Advanced Television Systems)
 and Their Impact Upon the Existing)
 Television Broadcast Service)
)

MM Docket No. 87-268

JUL 18 1987

Directed to: The Commission

OPPOSITION TO PETITION FOR PARTIAL RECONSIDERATION

Huntsville Television Acquisition Corp. ("HTAC"), pursuant to Section 1.429(f) of the Commission's Rules, hereby respectfully submits its Opposition to the "Petition for Partial Reconsideration" ("Petition") filed by Sarkes Tarzian, Inc. ("STI") in the above-captioned proceeding. STI has asked for a relaxation of certain interference conditions contained in provisions of Sections 73.622 and 73.623 of the rules, as adopted in the *Sixth Report and Order* in the above-captioned docket. HTAC owns and operates Station WZDX(TV), Channel 54, Huntsville, Alabama, which would likely experience additional interference to its NTSC transmissions as a result of STI's request.

STI is the licensee of television station WRCB-TV, Channel 3, Chattanooga, Tennessee. STI's Petition requests waiver of the interference and 1,000 kW maximum power restrictions set forth in the Rules in order to facilitate an antenna move and potential power increases for its digital operations on DTV Channel 55. STI has submitted an engineering statement with its Petition indicating that its DTV operations, using the replication facilities specified in the *Sixth Report and Order*, would cause interference to the first-adjacent NTSC operation of Station WZDX(TV) and to the second-adjacent NTSC operation of Station WFLI(TV), Channel 53, Cleveland, Tennessee.

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Section 73.622(d) provides a limited three-mile zone of flexibility in site relocation without considerations of interference. Because WRCB-TV's proposed antenna relocation is outside of the three-mile zone surrounding its licensed transmitter site, STI anticipates that a reduction in the height/power specifications for the DTV facilities of WRCB-TV would be necessary, pursuant to Section 73.623(c) restrictions, to avoid increasing "doughnut hole" interference to WFLI(TV). STI expresses concern about the adverse effect such a reduction would have on WRCB-TV's current replication area "match" of 91.9%, and thus requests a modification of Section 73.623(c) so that no reduction in the height/power replication facilities specified in its initial DTV allotment would be required. In the alternative, STI proposes a modification of the rule to permit some increase (up to 25 percent) in "doughnut hole" interference in situations where a modification of the DTV allotment is proposed (including relocation of the DTV transmitter site beyond the permissible three-mile zone).

HTAC opposes STI's Petition because STI's proposals would likely result in additional interference to WZDX's NTSC operations, hurting both the station and its viewership. WRCB-TV's digital station has been granted maximum power which will adequately cover its assigned market. Increasing WRCB-TV's coverage will only increase the incursion of its DTV signal into other markets.

In this proceeding the Commission has recognized the importance of protecting existing NTSC service during the transition from analog to digital. HTAC believes that significant viewership will exist for NTSC stations right up to the FCC's projected deadline for cessation of NTSC transmissions. Since WRCB-TV has already been granted maximum DTV power providing adequate coverage of its assigned market, and because its start-up coverage problems

may be addressed once NTSC transmissions cease, no increased DTV to NTSC interference should be permitted during the transition period.

For the foregoing reasons, HTAC respectfully requests that the Petition for Partial Reconsideration filed by Sarkes Tarzian, Inc. be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

HUNTSVILLE TELEVISION ACQUISITION CORP.

By: Milton Grant
Milton Grant
President

Dated: July 18, 1997

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Carol L. Callahan, of Huntsville Television Acquisition Corp., do hereby certify that on this 18th day of July, 1997, a copy of the Opposition to Petition for Partial Reconsideration was sent to the following, via first-class, postage pre-paid, U.S. mail:

Brian M. Madden, Esq.
Leventhal, Senter & Lerman P.L.L.C.
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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol L. Callahan" followed by a small mark that looks like a stylized "ck" or a checkmark.

Carol L. Callahan